GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:30
ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008
RASHTRIYA MAHILA KOSH (RMK)
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Tribe women benefited from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) across the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the rate of interest charged under RMK is high and if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the interest rate to cover more number of poor ST women; and

(c) the measures taken or likely to be taken by the Government to promote RMK in tribal areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) A total number of 5380 Scheduled Tribe women benefited from RMK loan during the last three years i.e. 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

(b) RMK disburses loan to intermediaries (NGOs etc.) at the rate of 8% on reducing balance and the intermediaries can charge interest between 8 to 18% reducing balance from the ultimate beneficiaries. Thus in RMK there is cap of 18% interest rate that can be charged from the ultimate beneficiary, compared to commercial Banks where there is no interest rate cap and beneficiaries are being charged around 22-25% interest.

(c) RMK has recently sanctioned a loan of Rs.2.5 crore to the RGVN Rashtriya Gramin Vikash Nidhi, Guwahati for covering the tribal areas in Jharkhand and North Eastern Region.

During the year 2006-2007, RMK sanctioned a loan of Rs. 7 crore to 14 Mandal Samakhyas in Andhra Pradesh over 80% of the women beneficiaries are poor tribal women.

RMK is in consultation with the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India to further explore the opportunities of enhancing coverage of tribal areas.